

National Marine Fisheries Service

The Mississippi Laboratories, with personnel and facilities at Stennis Space Center and Pascagoula, Miss., provide information for assessment, management and conservation of living marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and South Atlantic Ocean.



The Mississippi Laboratories of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service engineering component, is headquartered at Stennis Space Center. Personnel develop and apply satellite and other advanced technology to problems identified by fishery scientists and the marine industry. Geographic Information Systems, which combine satellite, research vessel and aircraft data into map formats, are now being used to answer questions about the distribution and abundance of marine mammals and fish resources in the Gulf of Mexico.



Gulf of Mexico Regional Node

Three research vessels — the NOAA ships *OREGON II*, *GORDON GUNTER* and *CARETTA* — are operated from the Mississippi Laboratories Pascagoula facility.



Laboratories' technicians utilize an underwater remote operated vehicle to make stock assessments, topographic and habitat surveys.

Engineers are working with National Marine Fisheries Service biologists in Pascagoula to develop and test small tags for tracking juvenile and adult sea turtles. Through these techniques, researchers hope to learn more about the migration patterns and seasonal distribution of these endangered species.

Activities at Stennis Space Center range from development of instruments for monitoring underwater performance of nets and associated fish behavior to use of satellites to track endangered species and map environmental conditions.